(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 11 November 2004 (11.11.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/097169 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: B21D 39/08, 31/04

E21B 43/10,

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2004/050548

(22) International Filing Date: 16 April 2004 (16.04.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data: 03252656.8

25 April 2003 (25.04.2003) E

(71) Applicant (for AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BE, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CY, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, SZ, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW only): SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH MAATSCHAPPIJ B.V. [NL/NL]; Carel van Bylandtlaan 30, NL-2596 HR The Hague (NL).

(71) Applicant (for CA only): SHELL CANADA LTD [CA/CA]; 400-4th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P 2H5 (CA). (72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): LOHBECK, Wilhelmus Christianus Maria [NL/NL]; Volmerlaan 8, NL-2288 GD Rijswijk (NL). ZIJSLING, Djurre, Hans [NL/NL]; Volmerlaan 8, NL-2288 GD Rijswijk (NL).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

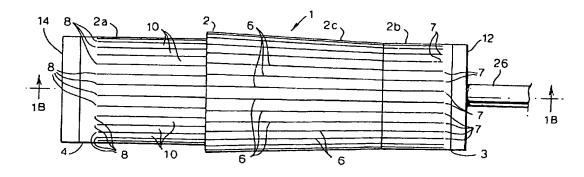
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: EXPANDER SYSTEM FOR INCREMENTAL EXPANSION OF A TUBULAR ELEMENT



(57) Abstract: An expander system for radially expanding a tubular element from a first inner diameter to a second inner diameter larger than the first inner diameter, the expander system including an expander movable between a radially retracted mode and a radially expanded mode, wherein the expander includes an expansion surface extending in axial direction of the expander and being operable to expand the tubular element upon movement of the expander from the retracted mode to the expanded mode thereof, said expansion surface being of increasing diameter in axial direction of the expander.

